

## **DYNAMIC VIRTUAL MACHINE SERVICE PROVIDER ALLOCATION**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A server receives a request for a service. The server determines if a virtual machine  
5 already exists that offers the service. If so, the server returns an identifier of the virtual  
machine to the requesting client so that the client may access the service from the virtual  
machine. Otherwise, the server attempts to create an image of a virtual machine offering the  
service. If successful in creating the image, the image is installed as a new virtual machine in  
a host machine, and the server returns an identifier of the newly created virtual machine to  
10 the client.